

## Septic Pits to Operate Until 1984

Since on-site inspections from the state Department of Environmental Quality Engineering have shown no reason to close them down, the septic waste pits on Keene St. will continue to operate with approval of the state until at least 1984.

Executive Assistant Ed Dondero told the selectmen that Avery Lovell's 2-year operating license has been renewed to December, 1984.

Selectmen had asked the DEQE for a report on the pits in November after a group of residents asked the board to close or impose tighter controls on the operation. The neighbors felt the pits were foul-smelling pits that lowered their property values.

The residents also said the DEQE had refused to renew Lovell's license automatically when it expired in June because state standards were not met. However, based on the department's letter, Dondero said the board will not step in and interfere with the operation of the pits.

The neighborhood group said if they get no satisfaction from the selectmen, they will consider documenting property-value losses, enabling them to file for property tax abatements.

The DEQE has told Lovell there are certain stipulations with which he must comply in order to keep his license. Besides odor control, other conditions are he must not exceed his 10,000 gallons per day dumping limit, must bury all dried sludge and keep the system in good working order at all times.

The letter from the DEQE makes no mention of their recent announcement that for the past few months, the department had not received the required bimonthly engineering reports on the lagoons. These reports are used to determine whether a lagoon site is operated within state guidelines and capacity limits.

The Lovells said they had been paying for the reports and had no idea the state had not received them. The Lovells have since fired their longtime engineering firm, E. W. Branch Engineering of Quincy.